

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Below is the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3)(i), with any mark-ups showing the changes made by the present Amendment.

1. (Currently amended) A wet-laid fiber material~~article~~, comprising:
a first surface comprising a pattern formed~~a first layer of substantially unbound~~
~~nonwoven wet-laid~~ fibers directionally aligned in a plurality of crossing linear formations; and
a second surface opposed to the first surface, the second surface comprising a collection of
~~second layer of randomly dispersed nonwoven wet-laid fibers, dispersed in physical contact with~~
~~the first layer.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) A fiber material~~article~~ according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.
5. (Currently amended) A fiber material~~article~~ according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

6. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.
7. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 1, further comprising a binder material distributed among the directionally aligned and randomly dispersed fibers~~within the first and second layers~~.
8. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 7, wherein the fiber ~~material~~article comprises about 5-30% binder material by weight.
9. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 7, wherein the binder material comprises an organic compound.
10. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 9, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.
11. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 1, wherein the directionally aligned fibers constitute first layer~~comprises a thickness of about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber~~ ~~material~~article.
12. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 1, wherein the fiber ~~material~~article has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test of about 393g mean tears when

the fiber ~~material~~article has a weight of 1.6 lb/sq. and when 15% of the weight of the fiber ~~material~~article is binder material.

13. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 12, wherein an overall thickness of ~~the fiber material~~article is about 0.035 inches, and ~~the directionally aligned fibers comprise a thickness in the article of about the thickness of the first nonwoven layer is about~~ 0.002 to 0.010 inches.

14. (Presently amended) A ~~wet-laid fiber material~~article, comprising:
~~a first surface comprising a pattern formed of a first plurality of substantially unbound nonwoven wet-laid fibers horizontally dispersed in two or more predetermined directions; and~~
~~a second surface opposed to the first surface, the second surface comprising a collection of randomly dispersed wet-laid fibers, plurality of nonwoven fibers horizontally dispersed in random directions and directly in physical contact with fibers of the first plurality of fibers; and~~
~~binding material binding the first and second pluralities of nonwoven fibers in their respective directions.~~

15. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.

16. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

17. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.

18. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 14, ~~and further comprising a wherein the binding material dispersed substantially throughout the fiber article for binding the fibers in their dispersed orientations, comprises an organic compound.~~

19. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 18, ~~wherein the binding material is an organic compound, and~~ wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.

20. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers ~~comprising the first surface, in the first plurality of fibers~~ are horizontally dispersed in linear formations extending in the two or more predetermined directions.

21. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 1, wherein the ~~fibers of the first surface that are horizontally dispersed in predetermined directions constitute first plurality of fibers comprises a thickness of about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber~~ material~~article.~~

22. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 14, wherein the fiber ~~material~~article has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test of about 393g mean tears when

the fiber ~~material~~article has a weight of 1.6 lb/sq. and when 15% of the weight of the fiber ~~material~~article is binder material.

23. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 22, wherein an overall thickness of the fiber material is about 0.035 inches, and the fibers of the first surface that are horizontally dispersed in predetermined directions comprise a thickness in the article of the thickness of the first nonwoven layer is about 0.002 to 0.010 inches.

24. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers of the first surface and the fibers of the second surface ~~first and second pluralities of fibers are collectively~~ both horizontally dispersed to a substantially uniform thickness.

25. (Currently amended) A fiber ~~material~~article according to claim 14, wherein the binding material comprises about 5% to 30% of a total weight of the fiber ~~material~~article.

26 - 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the directionally aligned fibers comprising the first surface have ~~first layer has an overall thickness substantially~~ equal to a thickness of one of the linear formations.

52. (Currently amended) A fiber material according to claim 20, wherein the wet-laid fibers horizontally dispersed in two or more predetermined directions comprising the first surface ~~first~~

~~plurality of fibers have~~all a substantially uniform overall thickness when dispersed in the two or more predetermined directions.